

*Application No. 10/689,170
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*Second Preliminary Amendment
Attorney Docket No. A66.2H-11057-US*

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-28 without prejudice. Please add new claims 29-49 as follows:

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled).

29. (previously presented) A latch assembly adapted for attachment to a door in a door frame, the latch assembly comprising:

- a) a base having a recessed working channel, an aperture, and a stop positioned in the working channel;
- b) a shaft extending through the aperture, said shaft having a rotational limiter, said rotational limiter being positioned in said working channel said stop being separated from said rotational limiter within said working channel; and
- c) a handle fixed to the shaft whereby the handle and shaft are at least partially rotatable with respect to the base between a first position and a second position, the handle being connected to the shaft, the handle having a grasping portion and a protruding positioning member said protruding positioning member constructed for movement between said stop and said rotational limiter.

30. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 29, said shaft comprising a nut cap end.

31. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 30, said handle comprising a head portion connecting to the shaft.

32. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 31, wherein said grasping portion extends from said head portion, the head portion configured for engagement with the base.

33. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 32, the head portion comprising a nut receiving area, the nut receiving area adapted for positioning over the nut cap end.

34. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 33, said stop comprising a first end and a second end wherein the stop is fixedly positioned within said working channel.

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35. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 33, said base further comprising a support stem positioned in said aperture.
36. (previously presented) The latch Assembly of claim 33, wherein said stop is arcuate in shape.
37. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 35, said base further comprising an index pin extending from said base.
38. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 35, wherein said shaft is rotatably engaged to said support stem.
39. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 30, wherein said rotational limiter is integral to said nut cap end.
40. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 34, said rotational limiter comprising a third end and a fourth end, said fourth end being adapted to engage said first end of said stop during rotation of said handle from said first position to said second position.
41. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 29, wherein said stop and said rotational limiter are disposed at substantially opposite locations within said working channel..
42. (previously presented) The latch assembly of claim 29, wherein said protruding positioning member is arcuate in shape.
43. (previously presented) The latch assembly according to claim 40, said protruding positioning member comprising a fifth end and a sixth end.
44. (previously presented) The latch assembly according to claim 43, wherein said fifth end is adapted to engage said second end and said sixth end is adapted to engage said third end when said handle is at said first position.
45. (previously presented) The latch assembly according to claim 43, wherein said fifth end engages said second end and said fourth end engages said first end when said handle is at said second position.
46. (previously presented) The latch assembly according to claim 31, said handle further comprising a lock bore through said head portion.

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47. (previously presented) The latch assembly according to claim 40, wherein said protruding positioning member is adapted for positioning in said working channel between said second end and said third end.

48. (previously presented) The latch assembly according to claim 29, further comprising an escutcheon engaged to said shaft.

49. (previously presented) The latch assembly according to claim 48, said escutcheon comprising; a plurality of graspers adapted to engage said shaft.